

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 SS-15 INR-07 AID-05 /035 R

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APPROVED BY AF:AMB. MULCAHY

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R 192117Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

UNCLAS STATE 037381

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:ETHIOPIAN ARMS

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S
PRESS BRIEFING MONDAY:

2. Q. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE CONSIDERATION OF FURTHER
ARMS AID FOR ETHIOPIA?

A. THIS QUESTION WAS RAISED YESTERDAY. AND WE DID CONFIRM
YESTERDAY, AS YOU PROBABLY SAW, THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED A
RECENT REQUEST FROM THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT FOR MILITARY
EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING AMMUNITION, AND THAT WE HAVE THIS RE-
QUEST UNDER STUDY. AND THERE'S BEEN NO CHANGE SINCE
YESTERDAY.

Q. IS THERE NO AMPLIFICATION YOU CAN SUPPLY AS TO CONSI-
DERATIONS GOVERNING THE UNITED STATES RECONSIDERATION OF
THIS MATTER -- OR CONSIDERATION OF THIS ADDITIONAL REQUEST?

A. YOU MEAN, SPECIFICALLY?

Q. WELL, YES. THIS IS BEING DESCRIBED FROM THE SCENE AS
AN EXTREMELY URGENT MILITARY MATTER. DOES THE UNITED
STATES SO REGARD IT AS AN EXTREMELY URGENT MILITARY MATTER
AS REQUIRING MORE THAN ORDINARY REVIEW?

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A. WELL, I'M NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH ANY SPECIFICS OF THE REQUEST ITSELF, OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED IT RECENTLY AND IT'S UNDER STUDY.

Q. BUT IN THIS RECENT REQUEST, DID THEY REFER TO THEIR DOMESTIC PROBLEMS OR, AS EARLIER, TO INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS WITH THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT, OR WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL IT, ASKED, FIRST, FOR MILITARY AID SIX MONTHS AGO -- OR MORE, PERHAPS. THEY REFERRED TO THEIR PROBLEMS WITH SOMALIA AND THE SUDAN. DO THEY REFER NOW TO THE ERITREAN PROBLEM?

A. I DON'T KNOW THE CONTEXT IN WHICH THEY MADE THE REQUEST.

Q. THE ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WAS HERE FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE. I'M UNAWARE OF ANYTHING THAT WAS SAID IN AMPLIFICATION OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS. WAS THERE ANY REPORT GIVEN? DID YOU HAVE ANYTHING AT THE TIME; DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING NOW CONCERNING UNITED STATES-ETHIOPIAN DISCUSSIONS?

A. WHILE I UNDERSTAND THERE WAS NO REQUEST MADE AT THE TIME THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS HERE, THERE WAS A DISCUSSION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE WITH ETHIOPIA. BUT THE REQUEST ITSELF WAS ONLY RECEIVED VERY RECENTLY. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE037381
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BARUSSELL:MR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750060-0316
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750230/aaaabbfg.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by BrownAM>; APPROVED <16 JAN 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THIOPIAN ARMS
TAGS: PFOR, ET, US
To: ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006